

Changes to the Somalia check-list

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Changes to the Somalia check-list (*Birds of Somalia*—Ash & Miskell 1983) since its publication have practically all been summarized by Douthwaite & Miskell (1991). A few further additions and deletions are reported on here.

The *Birds of Somalia* is divided into five lists, which continue to be used, as follows:

- List A Species recorded in Somalia. The substantive list of all species reliably recorded in Somalia.
- List B Species recorded off-shore, out of sight of land. These may be expected as additions to List A in time.
- List C Species for which confirmation of identification is required.
- List D Species and/or subspecies not considered acceptable for inclusion in List A. These are birds which have been recorded in Somalia at one time or another, but are not regarded as being acceptable.
- List E Hybrids recorded from Somalia.

In the accounts that follow, the prefix numbers are those used in the Check-list together with new numbers allocated to the additional species. An asterisk (*) in List A indicates which species occur for those observers with travel restrictions—within 40 km of Mogadishu; a '+' sign indicates that the species has been recorded not more than ten times. As a cross-reference aid, the Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957, 1960) number is given on the right of each species entry. The species involved above in Douthwaite & Miskell (1991) are as follows:

Check-list number	Species	Change
19a	<i>Fregata minor</i> Greater Frigatebird	Addition
40a	<i>Ciconia nigra</i> Black Stork	Addition
109a	<i>Pernis apivorus</i> Honey Buzzard	Addition
117a	<i>Falco cuvieri</i> African Hobby	Addition
124a	<i>Falco vespertinus</i> Red-footed Falcon	Addition
187a	<i>Gallinago media</i> Great Snipe	Addition
274a	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i> Black Cuckoo	Addition
314	<i>Ceryle maxima</i> Giant Kingfisher	Deletion—List D
326	<i>Merops oreobates</i> Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	Deletion—List D
406a	<i>Corvus splendens</i> Indian House Crow	Addition
477a	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i> River Warbler	Addition

The present situation regarding species occurrence in Somalia to the end of 1992 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. *Species occurrence in Somalia*

Numbers of	Ash & Miskell (1983)	1993
Species recorded	639	650
Species breeding	263	288
Palaeartic migrants	>149	>155
Species recorded not more than ten times	188	175
Species recorded within 40 km of Mogadishu	371	386

Additions to the Check-list

List A

Species recorded in Somalia

243a *Sterna saundersi* Saunders' Tern*

357

I follow the wide recognition of *S. saundersi* as a species distinct from *S. albifrons*. The check-list annotation is:

"Very common breeding visitor, especially when breeding on SE coast in Apr-Sep; many non-breeding visitors on all coasts probably all involve *saundersi* (see Ash & Miskell 1983), but specifically it is reported from 2c, 11c, 17a, 63cd, 64ac, 67d, 68c, 69a. Breeding: 17a, 63cd, 64ac, 68c, 69a."

(The only records of *S. albifrons* in Somalia are in 2c (Ogilvie-Grant & Reid 1901) and 11c (Archer & Godman 1937). It is perhaps significant that there are few records of this species in Kenya, where *saundersi* is common.)

281a *Asio capensis capensis* African Marsh Owl+

533

One collected on 31 May 1901 at Bardera by Erlanger (Hilgert 1908). The check-list annotation is

"Presumed intra-tropical African migrant with one old record in South. 60c."

395a *Riparia paludicola* African Sand Martin*+

1069

Small flocks near Jiohar on 13 Aug 1989 (Miskell *et al.* 1989). The check-list annotation is:

"Presumed intra-tropical African migrant with one new record in South. 63b."

594a *Ploceus subaureus* Golden Weaver*+

1341

Male nest-building at Balcad on 6 Nov 1987 (Schels *et al.* 1991). The check-list annotation is:

"Rare resident with one record in South. 60c. Breeding: 60c?."

List B

Species recorded off-shore, out of sight of land. These may be expected as additions to List A in time

Bo *Diomedea cauta* Shy Albatross —

One seen on 18 Sep 1986 at 11°50N, 51°35E 33 km NE off Cape Guardafui in 57b (Meeth & Meeth 1988).

Boa *Daption capense* Cape Petrel —

One seen on 26 Jan 1957 at 4°18N, 48°06E 22 km SE of Hocti Darute by R. S. Jones in 51c (Dr W. R. P. Bourne *in litt.*).

List C

Species for which confirmation of identification is required

Co *Larus armenicus*, *cachinnans* and *heuglini* Armenian,**Yellow-legged and Heuglin's Gulls**

339

Possible records are retained under *L. argentatus* until the taxonomic situation of these forms is determined and generally accepted (Bourne 1989, Stepanyan 1990).

C3 *Cisticola bodessa* Boran *Cisticola* (additional note)

1024a

Erard (1974) separated this species from *C. chiniana*. Two old records on the Jubba (45c, 66c) assigned to *C. c. bodessa* by van Someren (1929) have not been traced for checking.

C4 *Laniarius liberatus* Bulu Burti Boubou —

A recently described new species (Smith *et al.* 1991) is based on inadequate evidence at present, and is not included in List A.

List D

Species and/or subspecies not considered acceptable for inclusion in List A.

These are birds which have been recorded in Somalia at one time or another, but are not regarded as being acceptable

D1a *Oceanodroma monorhis* Swinhoe's Storm Petrel —

The Bailey *et al.* (1968) reference to three at 12°12N, 50°37E at 17 km offshore are listed only as probables in Bailey (1971). Tuck & Heinzel (1979) show the range of this species to be much further south in the Indian Ocean, and Brown *et al.* (1982), in referring to this reference, state erroneously that it extends west to Cape Guardafui, Somalia, and furthermore show it on a map as extending throughout the Red Sea.

D4aoo *Numenius tenuirostris* Slender-billed Curlew —

Heuglin's (1859) records in Ethiopia and Somalia have generally not been accepted, and are not included in Gretton (1991), who only considered twentieth century records. Although its occurrence in both these countries is, and probably even more so, was,

distinctly possible, no justification has been found for the acceptance of this species, so it is relegated to List D.

D4ao *Cursorius rufus* Burchell's Courser —

Hayman *et al.* (1987) include *C. cursor littoralis* and *C. c. somalensis* within *C. rufus*. Although recognizing the distinctiveness of these two races, they are left here with *C. cursor* until the situation is resolved further.

D4aa *Pterocles gutturalis saturation* Yellow-throated Sandgrouse 372

A specimen stated to have been collected in Somalia by F. D. Jackson is in the Field Museum, Chicago, and confirmed as such with its label by David Willard. Notwithstanding this, it is not included in List A being a highly improbable wanderer from its well-defined range in Kenya (Lewis & Pomeroy 1989) and Ethiopia (Ash: Ethiopian Atlas data).

D8a *Ceryle maxima* Giant Kingfisher 466

Deleted from List A by Douthwaite & Miskell (1991) and transferred to List D because of unsatisfactory identification. There is now a second record of a bird identified by call which is also placed in List D.

D9a *Hirundo obsoleta* Pale Crag Martin 1072

I follow Hall & Moreau (1970) and Voous (1977) by retaining *obsoleta* within *H. fuligula* in List A. There is a great range of variation within the many races of this species, and the continuous nature of the variation of measurements and colouration indicate that the races are very likely conspecific. R. J. Dowsett (pers. comm.) proposes to give *obsoleta* full specific status in his forthcoming Afrotropical check-list.

D13a *Cisticola chiniana* Rattling Cisticola 1024

Added here following its deletion from List A (see below).

Deletion from the Check-list

List A

Species recorded in Somalia

466 *Cisticola chiniana* Rattling Cisticola 1024

Now added to List D (see above). Specimens for three records of this species have been reidentified, viz:

- a. Juvenile, unsexed, 28 August 1964 Jiohar (Roche 1975)
- b. Juvenile male, 12 August 1970 Ola Uager (Roche 1978)
- c. Juvenile female, 13 August 1970 Ola Uager (Roche 1978).

Specimen a. was examined in the Paris Museum by C. Erard and identified as a young *C. galactotes*; b. and c., on loan from Florence, were examined by JSA and D. J. Pearson and identified as *C. brachyptera*.

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Request for information

The birds of the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

B.O.U. Check-list No. 5

This check-list will be out of print shortly and the author is revising the text for a new printing. Will anyone with Serengeti records please send them to the author,

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All records will be gratefully received and acknowledged.